

Parker River NWR: Revised Hunting Plan

Revised 7/9/85

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Refuge Manager

Reviewed by: T.W. Andrews 8/27/85
Regional Supervisor

Approved: Howard N. Lauen
Regional Director

Date: 8/27/85

REVISIONS TO HUNT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY - AREAS A, B, C

Refuge hunters must obtain a permit to use the hunting areas.

Refuge hunters must have in their possession and show upon request of refuge officers their valid State hunting license, Federal and State waterfowl stamps, and their refuge hunting permit card.

Hunters are required to report their success or failure on sheets provided at hunter access points.

The requirement for all hunters to pass a qualification exam before receiving a permit is hereby deleted, except for participants in the Young Waterfowler Training Program (YWTP). The exam functions as an educational tool that insures that youth hunters are in fact aware of things they should know before they hunt. The taking and passing of the exam is a requirement called for in the by-laws of the YWTP. Additionally, youth hunters must abide by refuge specific hunting regulations requiring steel shot, and a 25 shell limit.

All costs will be kept with current fiscal year budgets.

Hunt reporting will take place in Monthly Activity Reports and the Monthly Public Use Report (Form 3-239).

8/27/85

Capacities

Hunting area capacities are limited as follows: Area A - 75 hunters; Area B - 25 hunters; and Area C - 50 hunters per day. Area D has a maximum limit of 125 youths for the program per year.

Refuge parking areas are located at lot #1 for Areas A and B, just off of Marsh Avenue for access to Area B and at the end of Stackyard Road for access to Area C. Parking lot capacities are adequate for all areas. Also, boat access to Areas A and B is permitted from locations off-refuge.

Parking for the Young Waterfowlers' hunt is in designated lots located 0.6 miles north of Subheadquarters, at Subheadquarters, and at lots #7 and #8.

Management of the Activity - Waterfowl Hunting Areas A, B and C

All refuge hunters must pass a comprehensive waterfowl hunter examination. This open book type examination includes questions relating to regulations, species identification and hunting ethics. The completed exam is supposed to be returned to the refuge office at least 10 days prior to the opening day of the first half of the regular waterfowl hunting season. The refuge staff then grades the exams after this 10-day deadline. In actuality, exams are sent out until the supply runs out or until the second half of the duck season opens - whichever occurs first.

The 1977 exam consisted of a total of 91 true or false type questions with a total point value of 388 points. All or part of the point value of a question is deducted for incorrect answers. If a hunter loses fifteen or fewer points, he will receive a certification card good for five years. If a hunter loses between 16 and 25 points on the exam he is certified for the current hunting season only and he must retake the exam in order to hunt the following year. Hunters who submit exams late are only certified for one year if they pass and must take the next year's exam on time to have it accepted. After exams are graded, hunters are sent the results of their exam and a certification card if they have passed. The 10-day deadline before the season opening is intended to discourage cheating. (We have found that correct answer sheets may be passed around once we have corrected and returned exams.) When the exams are graded, hunters are given correct answers to questions they missed if they passed. In the case of hunters who fail the exam - they are sent correct answers to any questions they missed where their misunderstanding might lead to the commission of a violation. For example, if a hunter indicated in the exam that it was legal to shoot hawks, the returned results would

inform him that this would be illegal. Hunters failing the exam must wait for the next hunting season to retake it.

The exam functions as an educational tool that insures that hunters are in fact aware of the things they should know before they hunt. Use of hunting areas is on a first come, first served basis. Refuge hunters must have in their possession and show upon request of refuge officers their valid State hunting license, Federal and State waterfowl stamps, and their hunter certification card.

Hunters are required to report their success or failure to take birds on forms which are provided at hunter access locations.

A copy of 1977 special refuge regulations and refuge hunting area maps, 1977 exam packet with correction sheet master with point value, and hunter exam paper are attached.

The Young Waterfowlers Training Program is managed and directed through a Youth Waterfowl Committee composed of a Committee Chairman, Subcommittee Chairman (representatives of individual clubs who actively participate), and the Refuge Manager and/or designated personnel. This committee meets at appropriate times during the year to implement the program.

A copy of the rules and by-laws for this program are attached. One minor change in these by-laws includes the use of the refuge hunter examination in lieu of the specific youth hunter or instructor exams. Now all participants, instructors and youth hunters must have passed the refuge hunting examination. Youth hunters are also limited to no more than 15 shot shells per hunter and 16- and 12-gauge guns.

All costs will be assigned to the I&R program and kept within budgeting restraints.

Reports to be prepared are as follows:

1. Enter highlights in Monthly Activity Reports.
2. Public Use Report (Form 3-239)
3. Hunt Report (Form 257)

Regulations

Hunting on the refuge will be consistent with State regulations pertaining to the hunting of waterfowl.

In addition to State regulations, hunters must comply with special regulations for hunting on the refuge. These regulations are included on the reverse side of the refuge hunting area map which is attached.

The Young Waterfowlers' Training Program enrollees must conform with applicable State regulations as well as the specific requirements to participate in the special youth hunts.

Existing Facilities

Blinds:

Currently up to 29 blinds are located as shown in the attached map for use by participants in the Young Waterfowlers Training Program. A maximum of 35 blinds can be erected on Area D if necessary. Blinds are not provided in Areas A, B, and C.

Parking:

Parking is provided in refuge lots located at access points to each area. No conflicts exist with the use of these parking lots by hunters and other visitor activities on the refuge.

Sign Requirements:

Refuge and hunting area boundaries are posted with refuge boundary and public hunting signs as appropriate. Hunting signs are used where boat access is permitted. A minimum of directional signs are used, since all certified hunters have a map showing where the hunting area access points are located. One directional sign will be used for Area B where hunters turn off at Marsh Avenue to the parking area. Another sign may be needed on Stackyard Road where the road forks. Any more directional signs than this would only act as a magnet to hunters who are not certified to hunt on the refuge.

Boat Launching Ramp:

Access to Area A is by boat only. The refuge maintains a launching ramp for hunters near refuge parking lot #1. Hunters may also launch boats from areas off the refuge for boat access to Area A or B.

Annual O&M and Manpower

A. <u>Manpower Requirements</u>	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Exam Administration, Youth Waterfowlers Training and committee meetings (Revision, grading, and mailing exams)	36	\$1,700
2. Patrol/Enforcement	100	5,000
3. Blind location for Y.W.T.P.	2	100

A. <u>Manpower Requirements</u>	<u>Mandays</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Exam Administration/YWTP Committee Meetings	5	\$400
2. Patrol/Enforcement	100	3,000
3. Blind Location for YWTP	2	100
B. <u>Material and Equipment</u>		
1. Printing Hunt Info Sheet, Optional Exam — ?		150
2. Signs: Boundary, Hunting Area, etc.		200
3. Vehicles and Boats		750
4. Parking area, access roads, and launching ramp		400

<u>B. Material and Equipment</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Printing maps and examinations	250.00
2. Signs; boundary and public hunting, other	200.00
3. Vehicles and boats	1,000.00
4. Parking area, access roads and launching ramp	1,000.00
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Total O&M	9,250.00

Potentials

The activity is planned to continue at the current level.

APPROVAL:

Submitted by: William J. Kerstis, Jr. Date: 7-27-78

Reviewed by: Larry Atwell Date: 8-10-78 E. J. Sanchez 8/17/78

Approved by: Edward N. Loren Date: 8-22-78